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29 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director
SUBJECT : Possible Useful Language

1. Attached is a letter which Senator Humphrey (then Vice President) sent me in April 1968. Its language might possibly be useful to you in recounting to your Congressional inquisitors the Intelligence Community's overall record during the Vietnam conflict.

2. Unfortunately, this letter is directed personally to a single individual. In point of fact, however, I was actually speaking on behalf of -- and giving the distillate views of -- the Agency's, and the Community's, Indochina professionals; hence, I was functioning more as spokesman and symbol for a large body of colleagues than as an individual.

3. To paraphrase Churchill, I was not the lion, it simply fell my duty to provide the roar. Despite the personal nature of Humphrey's remarks, the language is applicable to the performance of the whole Community and, as such, may be of some use to you.

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George A. Carver, Jr.
Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

Attachment

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THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

April 19, 1968

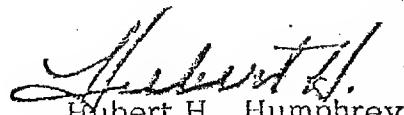
Dear George:

I have been meaning for some time now to congratulate you on the superb job you did in briefing the President and his senior advisers during the two weeks prior to March 31. Yours was not an enjoyable task. You served the President well by holding your ground and telling us about the situation as you saw it in Vietnam. It was a brutally frank and forthright analysis. The President's speech of March 31 indicated that your briefings had a profound effect on the course of U.S. policy in Vietnam.

I want to congratulate you on this and on the excellent work you have been doing as the Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,



Hubert H. Humphrey

Mr. George Carver
Special Assistant to the Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

26 April 1968

The Vice President
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Vice President:

I want to thank you for your very kind note of 19 April, which came as a great surprise but which I appreciated very much. As for my having been frank in describing the situation as I and my colleagues saw it, as an Agency officer I would have been derelict in my duty had I done anything else.

Your generous words concerning my work as the Director's Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs are words I can only accept in my corporate capacity and not as an individual, since any contributions made through me in this office reflect the collective efforts of my staff and of all of my Agency colleagues (in Washington, in Vietnam, and around the world) who work on Vietnam.

Speaking strictly as a private citizen and not as an Agency officer or executive branch official, I not only want to thank you personally for your kind personal note but would also like to wish you every success in any venture you may embark upon during the months ahead.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Carver, Jr.

VIETNAM AFFAIRS STAFF

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DATE: 23 April 68

TO: The Director

FROM:

SUBJECT: Note from The Vice President

REMARKS:

Once again I am faced with the conflict between the demands of modesty and candor. As usual, candor wins. I received the attached from The Vice President today. I would like to have it back but thought you ought to see it since it obviously bears on his attitude not just to me as an individual but to me in my capacity as a spokesman for the Agency.

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George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

GPA

Thank you. I'm glad
you wanted this from me.

Well done.



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